



Of Chances & Circumstances



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Chapter 1 by Eve Erkens

I sit by my favorite bench at the park, watching people walking by. Some alone, some with company. A woman is sitting on the bench across from me, and is staring into the blank air. She is deep in thought, a cold drink sits next to her in a plastic cup. The heat of the sun melts the ice, and water starts forming around the cup. She is oblivious to this, until the tiny pool of water beneath the cup reaches her finger. She flinches, and is instantaneously brought back to the present. She looks up and sees me watching. She smiles lightly, took her drink then left.

I started thinking, had she not been so lost in thought, would she have noticed the man who walked by not long ago. He was walking his chocolate lab, probably just came from a run around the park. When the dog stopped to mark his territory on the trash bin nearby, he looked at her for a few seconds. I wasn't sure if it was a look of admiration, or of concern for a stranger who seemed so lost in her own thoughts, but it was something.

What if there was more that could happen. Was this a missed chance at a possible story? Had the circumstance been different, even just by a tiny bit, would this have turned out differently?

I start to lose myself in my own thoughts. And by the time I realized anything, the sun was already setting. And someone is sitting next to me on my favorite bench.

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